

was also provided by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission and other State agencies. In addition, town officials and business and manufacturing leaders in the local area were interviewed in order to make this study as current and as applicable to the local situation as possible. Any other sources of information are cited in the text.

#### THE PLANNING AREA

The town of Maiden is situated in the southern part of Catawba County, so close to the southern county line that its planning perimeter (a line denoting the one-mile distance from the town limit line in all directions) falls in Lincoln County for several hundred feet below the Catawba-Lincoln County line.

For the purpose of this and later planning reports, the land within the corporate limits and the territory within the one-mile perimeter will be referred to as the "planning area". The land within the corporate limits will be referred to as the "town area", and the land between the corporate limits and the one-mile perimeter will be noted as the "fringe area".